

Message Text

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13

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

/169 W

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R 230959Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7526

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 9695

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, RP

SUBJECT: GATT TOKYO MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MULTILATERAL
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 159293

B. MANILA 9616

1. PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO TOKYO MINISTERIAL
MEETING WILL BE HEADED BY BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
CHAIRMAN VICENTE PATERNO. TENTATIVE COMPOSITION OF
REMAINDER OF DELEGATION IS: ROBERTO GARCIA,
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR CENTRAL BANK; TARIFF COMMISSIONER
MRS. RAZON HARESCO; AND SERGIO BARRERA, OFFICER-IN-
CHARGE, OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS. PATERNO HAS BEEN GIVEN BROAD AUTHORITY
BY PRESIDENT MARCOS OVER FOREIGN ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS,
(SEE MANILA 0873) AND HE NOW ENTERING TRADE NEGOTIATION
FIELD AS PART OF HIS BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES.

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2. PHILIPPINES HAS NUMBER OF TRADE CONCERNS IN COMMON WITH OTHER LDC COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT SCHEDULED TERMINATION THIS YEAR OF PHILIPPINE TARIFF PREFERENCES IN U.S. WILL LEAVE PHILIPPINES ALONG WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS RELATIVELY DISADVANTAGED VIS A VIS PRODUCERS OF COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS IN AFRICA. AS REPORTED REF B PHILIPPINES PARTICIPATING WITH OTHER ASEAN NATIONS IN SERIES OF MEETINGS PREPARATORY TO TRADE DISCUSSIONS WITH EC COMMISSIONER SOAMES SEPTEMBER 5-6. ASEAN NATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED PRESENT COORDINATED POSITION REGARDING GENERALIZED PREFERENCES AND LIBERALIZED ACCESS TO EC.

3. KNOWN ITEMS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO PHILIPPINES FOR GATT DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. ARE: PLYWOOD AND OTHER LUMBER PRODUCTS, FOR WHICH IT SEEKS DUTY REDUCTIONS ON PHILIPPINE MAHOGANY TO BRING RATES INTO LINE WITH THOSE ON OTHER TYPES OF WOOD; COCONUT OIL, FOR WHICH IT SEEKS DUTY COMPARABLE TO THAT ON PALM OIL; AND ABACA CORDAGE, FOR WHICH IT SEEKS ACCESS EQUIVALENT TO THAT AFFORDED MEXICAN HARD FIBERS, I.E., NO QUOTA LIMITATIONS. HOWEVER, MISSION DOES NOT EXPECT PHILIPPINES TO RAISE THESE OR OTHER NEW ISSUES IN PLENARY SESSIONS. FIN SEC VIRATA HAS RAISED THESE ISSUES INFORMALLY WITH EMBOFFS, AND THEY LIKELY TO BE PURSUED IN EXPLORATORY CONVERSATIONS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS.
SULLIVAN

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